WTCI-305-P

March 25, 1970

NOTE TO FILE

Subject: New York Times Inquiry on Asbestos Spraying at World Trade Center

About 7:50 P.M. yesterday, I received a call from Mr. Illson of the New York Times. He said that Congressman Ottinger had made a statement calling for Federal legislation to control the use of asbestos spray fireproofing because of the health hazard it created in the entire surrounding areas. He said that Ottinger had specifically mentioned the World Trade Center as being a large user of this material. He wanted to know if the Port Authority had any comment.

I was unable to reach Mr. Tozzoli or Mr. Sullivan, but I discussed the matter with Ray Monti, and gave Mr. Illson the following reply:

> We were certainly aware before beginning to use the material that it could be a hazard if not used properly and carefully. Long before our spraying operation began, we discussed the matter with the then Commissioner of Air Pollution Control of the City of New York, Mr. Heller, and experts of his choosing. They were satisfied that what we planned to do contained adequate safety guarantees and would make it the best operation of its kind in the City.
>
> What we proposed to do and what we have been doing is to hang canvas completely around the area being sprayed so as to create a "spray booth." The excess asbestos material that falls on ledges and other areas where it is not supposed to be is wet when it falls, and there is no danger of it being carried elsewhere by the wind until it dries. Before it dries, we sweep up all the excess, put it in plastic bags or metal containers and dispose of it. We are therefore confident that the operation does not create a hazard for people off the site.
>
> As far as workmen on the site are concerned, we require them to wear respiratory masks for their own protection.

Mr. Illson thanked me for this material, but no story on the subject seems to have appeared in this morning's Times.

W. H. Goodman

cc Messrs. Monti, Raiola, Sullivan, Tozzoli

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PLAINTIFF'S EXHIBIT
PX-558